

I. *A description of the Phænomenon of March 6. last, as it was seen on the Ocean, near the Coast of Spain. With an Account of the return of the same sort of Appearance, on March 31, and April 1. and 2. following.*

**I**N our last, we endeavour'd to give the Publick as good an Account of the late surprizing Meteor, seen in the Heavens, on the sixth of March last, as could be gathered from the several Relations of very distant Spectators, which had then come to the Royal Society's Notice. And since then, we can only add thereto, that at Paris, the Light was so inconsiderable, that it was not regarded: But from a Letter to Mr. Alexander Geekie, Surgeon, dated on Board a Ship in *Nevis* Road, in *America*, April 19 1716. we have copied the following Passage: " On the sixth of *March*, at 9 a Clock " in the Evening; we being then in the Latitude of  $45^{\circ}36'$ . " (off of the *N. W.* Coast of *Spain*). A clear Cloud appear- " red *East* of us, not far distant from our Zenith, which " afterwards darted it self forth into a number of Rays of " Light, every way like the Tail of a Comet, of such a " great Length, that it reach'd within a short way of the " Horizon. There likewise appear'd a Body of Light, " N. N. E. of us, and continued as Light almost as Day, till " after 12 a Clock. It appear'd at a good distance from us, " and darkned on a sudden:

Hence it should seem, that the Vapour which caused this Appearance, arose indifferently out of the deep Ocean Sea, as well as from the Land; by which we may conclude the great Subtilty of the Matter thereof, since it could permeate so great a Quantity of Water, and yet retain its Velocity; which is a Circumstance deserving the further consideration of the Curious.

But since this, most of the same *Phænomena* have been repeat- ed three several Nights successively, *viz.* On the last of *March*, and first and second of *April*. The best and fullest Description

tion of the two first, is, from a Letter of Dr. *Brook Taylor*, *LL. D.* and Secretary to the *Royal Society*, dated *April 2*, from *Cotterstock*, near *Oundle* in *Northamptonshire*, who thus describes them. “On *Saturday Night* last, and last Night, I saw Appearances of the same kind, with those of *March 6.* but not to compare for Extent and Strength to the other. They both began soon after Sun set, and continued till after *12*, but how much longer I cannot tell. They were both about *10* or *15* degrees to the Westward of the *North*, and took up about *80* degrees of the Horizon; and the *Aurora* rose about *30* gr. high, with a dark Bottom, like what was seen in the First; and from whence there sprung out several Bodies of Light, which immediately run into Streams, ascending about *30*, or at most *40* gr. high. There was no flashing nor waving Light, but in all other respects, these Lights were of the same kind with what we saw at *London*. Indeed in that last Night, there was one *Phænomenon* like the flashing Light, for a Body of Light about *15* or *20* degrees long, parallel to the Horizon, rose till it came about *6* degrees above the black *Basis*, and then sent up two strong Streams of Light about *40* gr. high, which at top dasht against one another, and disappear'd.”

At *London*, the first Night, *March 31.* It did not begin to radiate, till towards Mid-night, and was seen but by few curious Persons; the Beams not rising very high, and scarce appearing over the Houses, were little taken notice of: but by the Relation of those that saw it, it was much more considerable than the next Night following *Easter-day*, for it then sent out but few and very short Beams, mostly terminating in a sharp Point, and presently disappearing. Only it beginning to stream so soon as it became Dusky, it was very observable, that those Rays which arose out of the West end of the Luminous Arch, next the Sun, were enlightned by its Beams, and shew'd themselves much brighter than those which sprung up under the Pole, or to the Eastward thereof. And after Nine, till Mid-night, no more Beams arose; and the Luminous Arch with its black *Basis*, settled down very low in the Northern Horizon.

The same two Nights, by the Observation of *Mr. William Lingen*, the like Appearance was seen at *Dublin*, about the hours

hours of Nine or Ten ; at which time, in the former Night, it was near as Light as in a Moon-light Night. And from *France* we have an Account, that both those Nights, the same was seen at *Paris*, with much the same Circumstances as at *Dublin*. So that it seems this Meteor, though no ways comparable to that of the 6th of *March*, was seen not less than 150 Leagues, and probably much further.

The following Night, *April 2.* When it began to be dark, a Luminous Arch appear'd in the *North*, with a very narrow black Bottom under it, very low, and depress'd to the *Horizon*; nor was it seen at, or about *London*, to project any pointed Rays as the former.

But what was most remarkable that Evening, was, what was seen at *London*, by that ingenious Gentleman *Martin Foulks*, Esq; R. S. S. about Nine that Night. He being in the open Air at that time, saw in an Instant, a bright Ray of very white Light, appear in the *East*, out of the pure *Sky*, then very serene and still; it very much resembled the Tail of a *Comet*, and was about 20 gr. inclined from the *Perpendicular* to the *Right*, beginning about  $\gamma$  of *Bayer* in the *Corona Borea*, and terminating about the *Informis* by some call'd *Cor Caroli*. This having appear'd but a very short time, disappear'd at once, as in a Moment. When on a sudden, such another Beam was instantly produced, not exactly in the same place, but in the same Situation. Its lower end being about 20 gr. high, was terminated exactly between  $\pi$  and  $\gamma$ , in the *Right Hand* and *Arm* of *Hercules*, and the Middle of it past over  $\sigma$  and  $\varsigma$  in the *Girdle* of *Bootes*, and thence proceeded *Westwards*, leaving *Cor Caroli* four or five degrees to the *Northwards*. After it had continued in this posture near 10 Minutes immoveable among the Stars, it began to move slowly towards the *North* : and the lower end passing over the *Northern Edge* of the *Crown*, and the Ray it self over *Cor Caroli*, it grew fainter, and vanished, having continued in all about 20 Minutes. This latter with some Interruptions was extended between *Castor* and *Pollux*, very far into the *West*. And about that time, the same, or such another Beam, was seen at *St. Asaph*, by Doctor *Stanley*, the Reverend Dean of that Church.